

- examining whether the measurement voltage is not below a lower threshold value and not in excess of an upper threshold value,
- closing the controllable switch if the measurement voltage is within the permissible range,
- measuring the current flowing between the connecting terminal and the operating voltage network,
- examining whether the current is not below a lower threshold value,
- opening the at least one controllable switch if the current is outside the permissible range.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the method steps are carried out with activated ignition lock only.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the controllable switch is opened when the current between the connecting terminal and the operating voltage network is in excess of an upper threshold value.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein after opening of the controllable switch, this state is maintained until the voltage at the connecting terminal drops to zero or falls below a lower threshold value.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the measurement of the voltage at the connecting terminal is carried out permanently during the entire process.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the results of the measurement result examination steps are output via a display unit.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein after opening of the at least one controllable switch, said switch is closed again at regular intervals in order to determine whether the operational state that caused opening of said switch is still present.

8. A circuit arrangement for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

9. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the controllable switch is a relay.

10. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8, wherein connecting terminal is covered by a cap and the latter is connected to a switch such that the switching state of said switch changes upon removal of the cap from the connecting terminal.

11. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the operating voltage network is the supply network of a first motor vehicle and that the external voltage network is the supply network of a second motor vehicle, or a charging device.

12. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8, wherein a measurement resistor is connected between the terminal means of the connecting terminal.

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